



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE

CONCEPTION JUNCTION COUPLE INDICTED FOR METH, ILLEGAL FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a husband and wife from Conception Junction, Mo., have been indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine and illegally possessing a firearm. This indictment is the result of work completed by the NITRO Task Force.

Mark W. Wood, 48, and his wife, **Carol J. Wood**, 45, both of Conception Junction, were charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on Wednesday.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Mark** and **Carol Wood** conspired with each other to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 18, 2003, and Dec. 18, 2004.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege that **Mark** and **Carol Wood**, respectively, were in possession of a Navy Arms 9 mm semi-automatic handgun during the conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal to possess a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

Count Four of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Mark** and **Carol Wood** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the conspiracy alleged in Count One, including approximately \$9,850.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and NITRO, the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation. NITRO is a joint law enforcement effort by federal, state and local agencies in the 16-county region.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html